
SPECIFICATION

Replace the first paragraph from page 18 lines 1 - 18, inclusive, with the following:

B¹ An example of the periodical release of information is raw data published each Tuesday on the USPTO FTP server connected to the Internet. U.S. Patent 5,987,464 filed July 25, 1997, by Schneider entitled "Method and apparatus for periodically updating data records having an expiry time", explains how the periodic release of information is prepared and processed. Figs. 6a-d depict how hyperlinks may be generated based on the difference in directory contents as discussed in Figs. 4-5. Fig. 6a illustrates the content of a selected directory on the USPTO FTP server. The files of the form "99weekXX.zip" represent raw front page data of newly issued USPTO patents that are released in print every Tuesday at noon. It is clear from the date/time listing that there are variations from week to week of exactly when the new file is published. May it also be noted that the USPTO has fulfilled its mission of publishing such information and is under no obligation to compete with the private sector by adding more value such as setting up a notification service to subscribers to inform a subscriber as to exactly when each new file is publicly released. It may be ascertained from the listing shown in Fig. 6a that the next expected file will be called "99week35.zip" and published, sometime on Tuesday, August 31, 1999 by 10:06am or ~~earlier~~ later or by 1:38pm or ~~later~~ earlier.
